CT AQUATIC INVASIVE
FRESHWATER PLANT SPECIES

Water chestnut, an aquatic invasive plant, can quickly take over an area. Photo courtesy of the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association and Lyman Hall High School.

WHAT ARE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES?

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native species which crowd out or outcompete native plants and animals. They often have no natural predators or interact with the environment in a way that allows them to grow quickly and aggressively. AIS can create undesirable recreation conditions, cause loss of habitat for wildlife like fish, and decrease ecosystem biodiversity.

CLEAN, DRAIN & DRY

As a boater, it is your responsibility to not spread invasive species. You can do this by properly cleaning, draining and drying your boat and equipment each time you recreate. **CLEAN** your boat and trailer by removing any attached plants, animals, and mud or debris while still at the launch. (Driving away with invasives attached can result in a fine—see side bar.) **DRAIN** water from all boat spaces before leaving—check wells, buckets, floats, etc. **DRY** equipment for 5 days before using it in a different waterbody. For more information, visit https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-AquaticInvasiveSpecies.

REPORT YOUR SIGHTINGS

Familiarize yourself with the list of aquatic invasive plant species in CT (see reverse). If you see an invasive, photograph and report the date and location of your sighting to:

DEEP.AquaticInvasiveReport@ct.gov

IT'S THE LAW!

It is illegal to transport on a boat or trailer any vegetation or aquatic invasive species; you could be **fined up to $95 per violation** (CGA 15-180).

VOLUNTEER WITH DEEP WATER MONITORING!

Visit https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-VolunteerWaterMonitoring to learn more!

Freshwater Aquatic Invasive Plant Species of Concern in Connecticut

Egeria/"Brazilian Elodea" (*Egeria densa*)

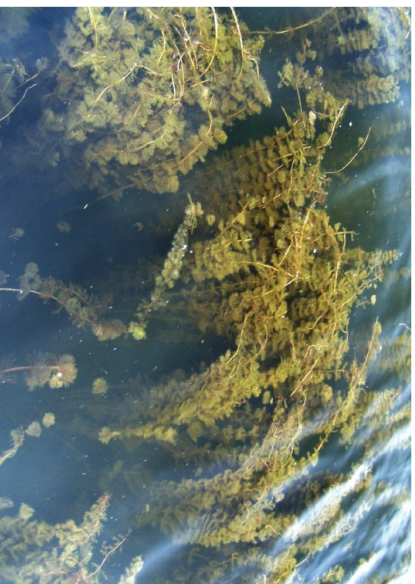Curly Leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)

Brittle water nymph (*Najas minor*)

Najas minor

Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*)

Eurasian Water-Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Hydrilla (*hydrilla verticillata*)

Parrotfeather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Variable-Leaf Water-Milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)

Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*)

Photos courtesy of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

View the CAES Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants of Connecticut to learn more about the species on this sheet.